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Cc: Sanders, Roberta[Sanders.Roberta@epa.gov]
From: Sanders, Roberta
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Underground Fire in Mo.docx
Nuclear fuel disposal plans face political obstacles.docx



Radiation News Clips

February 18, 2016

Policy and Regulations

Nuclear fuel disposal plans face political obstacles, not scientific (energybiz)

http://www.energybiz.com/article/16/02/nuclear-fuel-disposal-plans-face-political-obstacles-not-scientific?utm_source=2016_02_17&utm_medium=eNL&utm_campaign=EB_DAILY&utm_content=274601

The Department of Energy will begin considering locations this year for interim storage facilities for spent nuclear fuel. How it proceeds may hinge more on politics than science. The situation has its genesis in the passing of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, when the Cold War was still a fact of life, wherein Congress mandated a 1998 deadline for the DOE to establish a central repository for used fuel from commercial nuclear power facilities as well as defense-related sources.

Radioactive Waste

Underground Fire in Mo. Nears Nuclear Waste Dump (discoverynews)

<http://news.discovery.com/earth/underground-fire-in-mo-nears-nuclear-waste-dump-160218.htm>

The fire reportedly has been smoldering beneath a nearby landfill since at least 2010. The Washington Post reports that residents are afraid of what may happen if the fire — which is by some accounts as little as 1,500 feet away — reaches the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, Mo., a Superfund site filled with decades-old waste from the federal government's nuclear weapons program. Angry locals also think the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which manages the site, hasn't done enough to stop the fire.

WIPP

WIPP workshop outlines steps to reopening (currentargus.com)

<http://www.currentargus.com/story/news/special-reports/wipp/2016/02/17/wipp-workshop-outlines-steps-reopening/80507232/>

The Department of Energy said they plan to keep the public up to date on the next steps scheduled this year to reopen the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant.

Cleanup

Hanford board says proposed cleanup deadline too extreme (bellinghamherald.com)

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/news/state/washington/article61025252.html>

The Hanford Advisory board says a proposed change in deadlines to clean up radioactive waste in the reservation is too extreme.

Safety and Security

SGS denies responsibility for missing nuclear material in Iraq (Yahoo.com)

<http://news.yahoo.com/sgs-denies-responsibility-missing-nuclear-material-iraq-122458659--sector.html>

Swiss inspections group SGS denied on Thursday any responsibility for security at the site where radioactive material used to test pipes at an oil field in southern Iraq disappeared last year.

Nuclear Power

Innovative ways of funding nuclear power projects (wnn.org)

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/V-Innovative-ways-of-funding-nuclear-power-projects-18021601.html>

As governments worldwide face up to the climate change commitments under the COP21 agreement and the need for large - and growing - baseload power, nuclear generation is again being hailed as a real answer to the world's energy problems.

Science

North Korea's nuclear test 'could jolt volcano back to life' (telegraph.co.uk)

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/northkorea/12162388/North-Koreas-nuclear-test-could-jolt-volcano-back-to-life.html>

Seismologists have warned that North Korea's repeated nuclear tests could cause its highest mountain Mount Paekdu to erupt - and they add that one of the volcano's previous eruptions was "one of the largest explosive events in human history".

Space/Cosmic Radiation

New clues in the hunt for the sources of cosmic neutrinos (eurekalert.org)

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2016-02/ps-nci021716.php

The sources of the high-energy cosmic neutrinos that are detected by the IceCube Neutrino Observatory buried in the Antarctic ice may be hidden from observations of high-energy gamma rays, new research reveals. These high-energy cosmic neutrinos, which are likely to come from beyond our Milky Way Galaxy, may originate in incredibly dense and powerful objects in space that prevent the escape of the high-energy gamma rays that accompany the production of neutrinos. A paper describing the research will be published in the early online edition of the journal *Physical Review Letters* on February 18, 2016.

Astronomer from Moscow detected a new source of intense gamma-radiation in the sky (eurekalert.org)

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2016-02/lmsu-afm021716.php

Analyzing the data collected by the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope Maxim Pshirkov (The Sternberg Astronomical Institute, MSU) discovered a new source that confirmed the fact that binary systems with strong colliding stellar winds comprise a separate new population of high-energy gamma-ray sources.

Other

These 5 things help make sense of North Korea's nuclear tests and missile launch (washingtonpost)

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/02/18/these-5-things-help-make-sense-of-north-koreas-nuclear-tests-and-missile-launch/>

On Jan. 7, North Korea's state media shocked the international community by announcing the "spectacular success" of a hydrogen bomb test. Many international observers in South Korea and the West have questioned whether North Korea's nuclear test was actually a hydrogen bomb like Kim Jong Un alleged or merely a fission bomb similar to what it had tested previously. Then, on Feb. 7, North Korea launched a long-range missile that put a satellite into orbit, seen as a demonstration that the country had ballistic missiles that can aim those weapons at the West.

Ostendorff to Leave Nuclear Regulatory Commission (bna)

http://esweb.bna.com/eslw/1245/split_display.adp?fedfid=83283507&vname=dennotallissues&id=a0h9d5k4m7&split=0

With Ostendorff's departure, the commission could be down to three commissioners, which last occurred from July 2009 to March 2010. The NRC can operate effectively with three commissioners, Eliot Brenner, NRC spokesman, told Bloomberg BNA Feb. 17.

Belgian Police Find Video of Nuclear Official at Home of Terrorism Suspect (NYT)

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/19/world/europe/belgium-nuclear-official-video-paris-attacks.html?_r=0

The police in Belgium have retrieved 10 hours of video footage of a Belgian nuclear official from the home of a suspect in the November Paris attacks, Thierry Werts, a spokesman for Belgium's federal prosecutor, said on Thursday.